DA's Race Is Watched Across U.S.

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By ALLAN KATZ

Not only New Orleans but the rest of the country watched Jim Garrison's bid today to be nominated to a third term as Orleans Parish district attorney.

Garrison faced challenges by Harry Connick, Charles Ray Ward and Ross Scaccia. Connick emerged in recent weeks as Garrison's chief opponent.

Attention focused on Garrison who drew worldwide attention with his investigation of the death of the late President John F. Kennedy and the unsuccessful prosecution of New Orleans businessman Clay Shaw.

GARRISON'S CASE against Shaw, which he took two years to piece together, was dismissed in 52 minutes last March by a 12-man jury which unanimously ruled Shaw was not guilty of conspiring with Lee Harvey Oswald and David Ferrie to kill Kennedy.

Although the Shaw case has been an issue in the campaign, other charges against Garrison also have arisen.

Wednesday, Connick revealed documents which he said indicated Garrison held 30,000 shares of stock in the bankrupt Louisiana Loan and Thrift Corp. and used the

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stock to secure a $25,000 note from LL&T.

Garrison who previously denied any financial interest in the bankrupt firm, said the documents were just a ploy to deceive voters on the eve of the election. The documents included three stock certificates, two stock transfer forms and a $25,000 promissory note, the latter two bearing the signature "Jim Garrison."

THROUGH THE campaign, Garrison has taken the role of the confident incumbent. His bid for reelection has relied mainly on taped television spots.

The six-foot, six-inch DA has said a slipped spinal disc has made personal campaigning during the election a virtual impossibility. His opponents, who have called Garrison "the disappearing DA," say the back ailment is the incumbent's ploy for avoiding facing them and questions from voters.

Waiting to face the winner of the Democratic primary is Republican Phil Trice. A general election is set for April.

Political observers early in the campaign made Garrison a heavy favorite to win but now say the final result is uncertain. Generally, incumbents must win or come very close to winning in the first primary or face defeat in a second primary.

JIM GARRISON HARRY CONNICK

Apart from the LL&T charges raised by Connick, specific issues raised by Garrison's opponents include:

THE ACCUMULATION of $1.2 million in forfeited bail bonds that Garrison failed to collect. Connick says 1,100 persons accused of crimes skipped bail between 1965-69, in some cases being arrested several times by police and each time committing a new crime and skipping bail again.

— **THE HANDLING** of the Clay Shaw case which Ward says "has made New Orleans the laughing-stock of the world." Ward has told audiences that they must expect four more years of retrying Clay Shaw and bizarre press releases if they reelect the incumbent.

— **GARRISON'S FITNESS** to serve has been raised. Scaccia, who has brought a measure of levity to the campaign throughout, says, "The Jolly Green Giant (Garrison) says, 'I don't want to be your king, just your DA' — well, he really does want to be your king."

Garrison, for his part, generally has been the confident incumbent, defending the record of his office and saying he is opposed by the newspapers, the national press and the federal government — all of whom he also charged with interfering in the investigation of the death of President Kennedy.

The incumbent has pointed to an office staffed by full-time assistants and a record of 85 per cent wins injury trials. Garrison also says his office has convicted every leading lottery, narcotics and prostitution kingpin in the city.